

10 Park Village, West, Q.P.

July 4. 1844.

My dear Sir,

I have recently recd. a letter from
Pierpont Gervinus on the subject of his work
(yet in embryo only) on Shakespeare. From his
shewing it will be a critical production, but
in the most popular sense of the term. His plan
is to proceed much after the manner of Goethe, in
his criticism on Hamlet, in Wilhelm Meister,
with which you, of course, are acquainted, thro' Mr.
Carlyle's translation of that work - his main special
thing, in his own language, "to investigate the in-
ward organisation of Shakspeare's mind, by means of an
analysis of his pieces - & to find the ground plot
on which the superstructure of each play, has been
based. also to allocate the pieces according to their
conjectured, or positive, order; & so attempt to evolve the
soul & character of the Poet out of the Idea-links in-
dicated in his works - & by that means hope to attain
something like a sketch of his inward life, not
unworthy to be placed along side the portraits of his outward
one."

Such a book from the pen of such a man
as Gervinus, will be indeed acceptable -
He seems to ~~denie~~ think that I should stand
forth rather to the work in this country - It will
be too great an honor to be thus connected with
so renowned a personage as Gervinus, for me to
decline at once the proffered opportunity: but
first of all, a Publisher must be secured in
this country - & I know of no one who is
likely to take the thing up so heartily as
would Charles Knight - What think you?

There is a passage in Gervinus' letter
concerning yourself, which is my main motive
for writing this - It is as follows:

"To Mr Collier I beg my remembrances
as from one unknown to him - altho' to me
he himself is well known. I have in my
hands, daily, his edition, & use it for my
staff & leaning-rod. It has spared me an
endless quantity of stupid readings of absurd com-
mentators. Also of your 'Shakespeare Society'
I have good information. I lament that it

Publications are not easily attainable by me, here.
I look on them as storing ready for my arrival
in London, where I shall go thro' them, &
other dainties - as, for instance, the Springs of
Twicken & Persida, the only piece in which I am
as yet at sea, touching the Orestes' particular
view."

I inclose you the last of my literary
speculations: It will serve to amuse your
idles -

I am Dear Sir

Very truly yours

J. M. Maylor

J. P. Collins Jr.

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